

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph [0006]:

**[0006]** Because of the reduced strength of the very ~~twin~~-thin wall ceramic honeycomb substrates, and the corresponding increase in the dimensional changes due to the exothermic nature of the removal of the organic compounds, special consideration in the firing must be undertaken to avoid cracking of the ceramic body. Specially designed kilns, apparatus for volatile removal, reduced oxygen containing atmospheres, and complicated firing cycles are among the numerous means that have been employed to control the burnout of organic compounds, decrease the combustible concentrations in the kiln atmosphere, and reduce the thermal stresses differential shrinkage and high cracking frequency. These methods however, require expensive and sophisticated equipment and increase the cost of firing.

Please replace paragraph [0038] with the following amended paragraph [0038]:

**[0038]** In another embodiment, microwave power is utilized in order to effect faster heating of the ceramic ware. Referring now to FIG. 2 therein shown is another embodiment of the present invention as a block diagram of an apparatus. This apparatus is similar to the apparatus of FIG. 1, with the addition of a microwave system 36 coupled directly or indirectly, to the processing chamber 10. In this embodiment processing chamber 10 is also a cavity resonator. The microwave system 36 comprises a microwave generator or source 38 and a microwave controller 40. The microwave generator 38 is coupled to the processing chamber 10 by any suitable means, such as waveguides ~~[[42]]~~ 43. The microwave controller 40 which functions to control the microwave generator 38 is in communication with inside of the processing chamber 10 through temperature measurement 44 located below the ceramic ware 12.